

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, the elected claims, have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Afeyan (US 5,503,933).

New Claim 22 recites that evaporation occurs prior to breaking the double bonds and Claim 23 that both occur simultaneously. This is fully supported by paragraphs 9 and 14 of the present specification.

Afeyan discloses preparation of a weak cation exchange by covalent bonding of a hydrophilic coating of a first compound to a hydrophobic surface of a polymer. The method is performed by covalent bonding of unsaturated groups on the first compound with unsaturated groups on the surface on the polymer. The first compound is in the liquid phase during the entire covalent bonding process. See, e.g. Fig. 1A, 1B and 1C which show the first compound in solution. See also col. 5, lines 30-45, which refer to the first compound being in liquid phase. Nothing in Afeyan discloses evaporating the solvent and breaking the double bonds for covalent bonding of the first compound to the polymer.

Claim 1 recites evaporation of the solvent and breaking of the double bonds for covalent bonding. This requires solvent evaporation prior to or during breaking of the bonds. This is illustrated by the context of specification paragraphs 9 and 14. Afeyan does not disclose such solvent evaporation in the context of breaking the double bonds and so does not anticipate the claims.

New Claim 22 recites that solvent evaporation occurs prior to breaking of the double bonds, while new Claim 23 recites solvent evaporation and breaking the double bonds simultaneously. These are the two specific evaporation timings recited in the patent. Afeyan does not recite solvent evaporation in this portion of the process. Thus, these claims which recite specific timing for the evaporation are not anticipated by Afeyan.

Claim 8, line 1, has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error. The word "functionalize" has been amended to "functional".

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and an early notification of such is solicited.

Please direct any calls in connection with this application to the undersigned at (415) 781-1989.

Respectfully submitted,
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